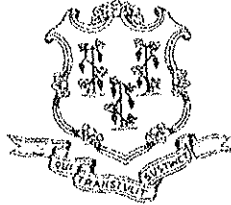


STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

James M. Thomas
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff

February 10, 2011

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman
Sen. Joan Hartley, Co-Chairman
Public Safety and Security Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

SB 547 AN ACT CONCERNING FIREARMS

The Department of Public Safety comments on proposal.

As this proposed bill has not been formally drafted, it is not clear exactly what would be amended in 29-33. Based on a review of 18 USC 921 it appears that this would reference persons with a federal "Curio and Relic License". At present a Curio and Relic holder is able to do dealer to dealer transfers that are exempt from 29-33, pursuant to 29-33g. If a Curio and Relic holder takes in a handgun from a private citizen they are still required to comply with 29-33 and receive an authorization number just as retail federal firearms license (FFL) dealer does. If the intent is to exempt transactions between dealers, this is unnecessary as they are already exempted. If the intent is to exempt sales to and purchases from the general public from the statutory public safety requirements of 29-33, the Department of Public Safety is strongly opposed.

The second portion of this proposal involves removing the term "selective fire" from the definition of an assault weapon under 53-202a. For a firearm to be "selective fire" it first must be a machine gun by definition. The possession of a machine gun is allowed by both federal regulations and CGS 53-202, with stringent registration and application to possess requirements. Deletion of the term "selective fire" would remove an inconsistency between what is allowed under 53-202 and what is prohibited by 53-202a. The Department of Public Safety does not object to such clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M. Thomas".
James M. Thomas
COMMISSIONER